

July 14, 2010

Dear Members of the Committee on Ways and Means,
Re: Title of the Hearing: Social Security at 75 Years

I urge Congress to take immediate action to pass the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 235/S, 484), which would repeal the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision.

I have spent the majority of my 25 years part time teaching career in a parochial inner city school paying into Social Security. I also worked part time in the public school sector and have just started receiving a small public school teacher's pension. When I retire soon from my parochial school job I will not be able to receive all of my social security because I am receiving a small public school teacher's pension.

I taught part time in both public and private sectors so I could devote more time to raising our four children. I don't consider receiving both State Teachers Retirement and Social Security "double dipping" because I earned benefits from both. I don't expect to get the same retirement as someone who taught full time but I should be able to receive all the retirement benefits that I earned.

I think the present system of offsets unfairly penalizes women who worked at school for pay and at home for their families without pay.

I urge Congress to move the Social Security Fairness Act forward for a vote. In addition, if Congress takes up overall social security reform, I urge inclusion of repeal of the GPO and WEP as part of any reform package.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Dotty Gonsalves
CA